Additional platform at Sealdah South Station

285. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 406 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1986 and state:

(a) what progress has been made so far regarding construction of one additional platform in Sealdah South station, new Coaching Complex at Sealdah Goods yard;

(b) what measures Government proposes to take for the improvement in traffic movement in Sealdah station;

(c) whether it is a fact that traffic congestion in the Sealdah-Bongaon section has not been reduced to any marked extent even after the doubling of track between Sealdah and Barasat; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to ease the congestion in the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Progress of construction of one additional platform at Sealdah South Station is 70 per cent. Plans and estimates are under finalisation for construction of New Coaching Complex at Sealdah for maintenance of rakes.

(b) Work for improvement of traffic circulation in Sealdah Station area was approved in 1986-87 Budget and plans are under approval for taking up the work.

(c) and (d) Traffic congestion has eased in Sealdah-Barasat section with the commissioning of doubling upto Barasat. More relief will become available with the completion of remodelling work at Dum Dum yard. New works for augmentation of capacity on Brasat-Boagaon will be considered in the coming years depanding on availability of resources.

Improvement of navigability of the Ganga

286. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigability of the river Ganga has been considerably reduced due to the constant siltation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the navigability of the Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The navigability of river Ganga has been reduced considerably due to siltation and withdrawal of large volumes of water for irrigation, drinking and industrial requirements.

(b) Three schemes at a total cost of Rs. 15.58 crores are being implemented for development of infrastructural facilities on the Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river to improve the navigation channel, bandalling, river training of hydrographic surveys, dredging the navigation channel, band alling, river training provisio of navigational aids and terminal facilities.

Calcutta circular railway

287. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 725 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1986 and state:

(a) what specific steps have since been taken to expeditiously implement the extension project of the Calcutta Circular Railway; and

(b) what is the expenditure involved on the extension project?